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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 18 | Humidity 40% Mainly Clear sky Sensex 74,454 | Nifty 22,553 | Gold 86,352 | Silver 95,930 | Dollar 86.71 | Euro 90.80 | GBP 109.58

RATION TENSION

Around 20,000 applications filed for new ration cards after Sept 2023 pending due to delay in final approval from department

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HORROR STORY

Cop's arrest for sexual assault on rape survivor shocks city; just in Jan this year, 65 rape cases already reported

PAGE 5

At areas where traffic is being managed manually, traffic officials face considerable challenges from errant motorists as highlighted by verbal abuse of woman constable at busy junction

MIXED SIGNALS

As of Feb, there are 450 signalised junctions in city

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Despite Bengaluru's strides toward automating its traffic management with AI-powered systems, many key intersections still depend on manual oversight. A recent incident underscores the challenges faced by traffic personnel in these areas.

At the non-signalled Sai Baba Temple junction, Vanishree ST, a constable from the Hulimavu Traffic Police Station, was manually directing traffic when an SUV driver, Lokesh, disregarded her instructions, obstructing other vehicles. Upon being asked to stop, Lokesh verbally abused Vanishree and threatened her position.

Bystanders intervened, capturing the confrontation on their phones and sharing it on social media.

The Hulimavu police promptly arrested Lokesh and his associate, Ravi, charging them under Section 132 for assaulting a public servant during duty.

This incident highlights the existing gaps in Bengaluru's traffic infrastructure. As of September 2024, the city managed approximately 900 junctions manually, with around 405 equipped with signal systems. The Bengaluru Traffic Police have initiated the Bengaluru Adaptive Traffic Control System (BATCS) to address these challenges, aiming to upgrade 165 junctions with AI-driven signals by January 2025. However, until full implementation is achieved, many busy intersections remain without automated signals, necessitating manual control and exposing officers to potential risks.

> **"This junction is yet to be equipped with an AI-powered signal and is currently being managed manually. However, in the coming years, all junctions are expected to transition to AI-driven traffic signals**
>
> —Traffic official

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Guilty as charged

Reports on suicide in city-based newspapers show many not following guidelines issued by WHO

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

An analysis of 1,198 news reports on suicide from 19 Bengaluru-based newspapers shows that the majority of these reports did not follow guidelines provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) for responsible reporting of suicide.

The analysis showed that 80.6% of the reports were placed in the newspaper's main section. A whopping 85.3% of the reports mentioned the suicide method, with 53.5% of them explaining the method in detail. Moreover, the reports resorted to simplistic explanations for the cause of suicide in 64.1% of cases, and 24.9% of reports produced photographs of the deceased.

Only 2.7% of the reports acknowledged the linkage between mental health and suicidality, and only 1.3% of the reports provided suicide helpline numbers. The reports that tried generating awareness about suicide prevention programs were negligible in number (1%).

The study was conducted by a group of researchers from NIMHANS, Christ University, and St. Joseph's University thorough review of the guidelines prescribed for media professionals by WHO

Researchers noted that the news reports on suicide mostly sensationalized the event with the majority of the reports portraying suicide in a harmful manner by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Discourse on AI

Canadian International School (CIS) is hosting TeachConX 2025, a K-12 professional development conference, focused on Authentic Learning in the Age of AI. The event will consist of speakers like Dr Sugata Mitra, renowned for his groundbreaking research on Self-Organised Learning Environments (SOLE), and Nina Bual, a leading expert in cybersecurity, digital well-being, and responsible AI.
Where: Canadian International School, Yelahanka;
When: March 6 and 7

02 Acoustic evening

The Drawing Room is organising Tipsy Jazz, a programme featuring live jazz performances, along with crafted cocktails and artisanal bites.
Where: The Drawing Room at Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar;
When: February 28, 7 pm

03 Music festival

The Mahindra Percussion Festival returns this year with a music festival honoring the legendary Ustad Zakir Hussain. This special edition event will feature renowned percussionists from around the world.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: March 1 and 2

04 Cultural celebration

Shankaraa Foundation brings to you Spasibo Shankara, a cultural collaboration between maestros from both India and Russia, as they come together to express reverence to Lord Shiva through their music and dance.
Where: Shankaraa, Kanakapura Main Road;
When: February 26, 7:30 pm

Breaking barriers? Not here: Para athlete alleges inaction

Despite displaying swimming ability and citing achievements, management denied membership claiming disabled people weren't allowed in pool, says para athlete

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Deepa V (inset) alleges police's slow probe and delayed CCTV seizure

It has been three months since a para athlete filed a complaint against a private swimming pool in the city over their 'discriminatory' practice. However, according to her, the police have not moved on her complaint.

Dr Deepa V, a para-swimmer with 12 Karnataka State Gold Medals over the past four years and a Silver medal at the Nationals in Goa, lodged a complaint with Thalaghattapura Police against Cult.fit Swimming Academy for discrimination. Based on her complaint, the police had registered the FIR under Section 92(A) of the Right of Persons with Disability Act, 2016, against Cult.fit Swimming Academy and its manager.

Expressing her disappointment with the lackadaisical progress of investigation by Thalaghattapura Police, she said, "The police inspector has not taken action against the accused persons. Despite my repeated requests to seize the CCTV footage (which clearly shows my ability to swim on October 7 and my denial on October 8 in front of witnesses), the police failed to collect it on time."

In her complaint, Dr Deepa stated that she attended a trial swimming session at Cult.fit Swimming Academy on October 7, 2024, and successfully completed her session in front of the coaches, her mother, and her co-swimmers. "On October 8, 2024, I returned to enrol as a paying member. Despite my national-level achievements and explaining that I needed to train for upcoming national events, Mr Hashim, the manager, has denied my entry, stating that people with disabilities were not allowed in their swimming pool," she said. She pointed out that she was not made aware of any such policy or given any prior indication that people with disabilities were not allowed. "This violates the rights of persons with disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016, which mandates accessibility and prohibits discrimination," Dr Deepa said.

> **"We want to give priority to the safety of swimmers. Access to the swimming pool was denied as we did not have manpower and trained coaches for training para-swimmers** –Hashim, Cult.fit

She lodged a complaint with the State Commissioner for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act on October 9, 2024, narrating the instance of discrimination that she faced at 6 pm on October 8. She said that she was preparing to participate in the national-level competition scheduled in Goa on October 19, 2024, and had approached the establishment to enhance her swimming practice. "I attended a free trial session on October 7, during which the coach, Karthik, was highly encouraging and several co-swimmers witnessed my swimming. However, when I returned to enrol, the manager informed me that the company policy does not permit people with disabilities to use the pool," she added. In her complaint, she requested the authorities to take cognizance of the incident and take immediate action to ensure that all Cult.fit centers are made fully accessible.

Commenting on the incident, Thalaghattapura Police Inspector said that the investigation is in progress. When contacted, Hashim of Cult.fit said that he was not against Dr Deepa. "We want to give priority to the safety of swimmers. Access to the swimming pool was denied as we did not have manpower and trained coaches for training para-swimmers," Hashim said.

While speaking to BM, the State Commissioner for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act said that he has issued a notice to the management to make the swimming pool accessible to para-swimmers. "I am following the progress of arrangements made by the Cult.fit. I will visit the spot if the need arises," the State Commissioner said.

SBI donates electric vehicles to hospitals

State Bank of India (SBI) donated 4 electrical buggies to Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), and Trauma and Emergency Care Centre, Bengaluru, amounting to 38.16 lakhs.

As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Joohi Smita Sinha, Chief General Manager, Bengaluru Circle, handed over 2 vehicles with a stretcher and 2 Vehicles without one, to BMCRI and Trauma and Emergency Care Centre, to help in the movement of patients, patient attendants and doctors.

The ceremony was attended by Sushil Kumar Singh, General Manager Network-1 and other senior dignitaries from SBI, Bengaluru Circle. Dr Balaji S Pai, Special Officer, and Dr Ashima Banu, Nodal Officer and Principal of BMCRI, expressed their gratitude.

Innovation and technology to take centre stage

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The National Horticulture Fair 2025 is set to take place from February 27 to March 1 at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (ICAR-IIHR), Hesaraghatta, under the theme "Horticulture for Viksit Bharat: Nutrition, Empowerment, and Livelihood."

The event aims to showcase and promote advanced horticultural varieties and technologies that enhance nutrition through nutrient-rich crops. It will also provide need-based information and technologies to empower farmers, particularly those from economically weaker sections.

Officials stated that the fair will feature various programs on horticultural crop development, with a strong focus on technologies that are socially compatible, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable. Around 250 institutions will exhibit their innovations across different categories of horticultural technologies. ICAR-IIHR will display over 250 horticultural varieties and technologies developed in areas such as varietal improvement, crop production, crop protection. The fair is expected to attract over 75,000 farmers and stakeholders from the horticulture sector.

Breakthrough in calcium-rich mushrooms

In a significant advancement, ICAR-IIHR has developed a technology to fortify elm oyster mushrooms (Hypsizygus ulmarius) with calcium, addressing the global concern of dietary calcium deficiency. The newly developed vacuum impregnation process under high pressure has led to a remarkable 202.27% increase in calcium concentration in these mushrooms compared to conventional varieties.

Awaiting approval, thousands struggle without ration cards

Over 20,000 beneficiaries affected by delays, most visit food & civil supplies offices daily only to face disappointment

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Despite applying for new ration cards over a year and a half ago, thousands of applicants are now forced to reapply due to prolonged delays in approval. The Food and Civil Supplies Department is yet to grant the final Certificate of Entitlement (CoE) for many applications, leading to widespread frustration.

Officials have confirmed that applications submitted before September 2023 were processed, and ration cards were issued accordingly. However, applications filed after this period remain pending due to the department's delay in granting final approval. As a result, more than 20,000 applicants in the district are still waiting for their ration cards, with the number exceeding one lakh across the state.

File photo of a queue outside a ration shop in Bengaluru

Daily struggles at civil supplies offices

Kavya Kumar, a homemaker, said, "Hundreds of applicants visit district and taluk-level Food and Civil Supplies offices daily, hoping for an update. Many complain about the lack of clear answers from officials. We applied for BPL ration cards over a year ago, yet there is no sign of approval. When we ask for reasons, officials only say the cards will be issued once the government grants final approval but fail to explain the delay."

Application process

Applying for a new ration card has become an arduous task. The Food and Civil Supplies Department has set specific windows for submission, allowing applications only through designated citizen service centres. However, due to the short timeframes and a surge in applications, server issues are frequent, forcing applicants to repeatedly visit service centers. Many claim that even after multiple attempts, the government's delay in final approvals continues to cause hardships.

Cacelled ration cards take ages to be reissued

The central government had earlier announced the cancellation of lakhs of below poverty line (BPL) ration cards, prompting opposition in many areas.

Following widespread protests, the state government reinstated several of these cards. However, officials confirmed that some cards were not reactivated, and those affected have now applied for above poverty line (APL) cards instead.

According to officials, ration cards have been continuously issued to those with health-related issues. Additionally, around 7,000 labourers registered under the e-Shram portal in the district have received ration cards.

Applicants speak out

"Until last year, we were part of a joint family. We separated and removed our names from the old ration card, applying for a new one. Despite multiple visits to government offices, we are still waiting for final approval," said Nagaraj N, an applicant. Authorities have assured cardholders that discussions are underway to resolve the backlog, and final approvals are expected soon. However, applicants continue to endure long waits as of now.

Heart attack? Techie found dead in car

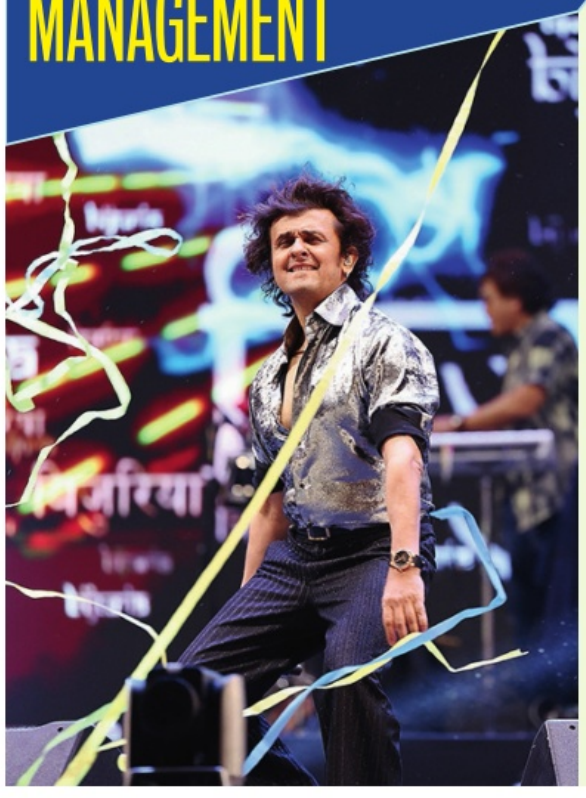
A 37-year-old IT professional, Santosh Prasad, was found dead in his car on ITPL Road on Thursday, reportedly after suffering a heart attack. Santosh, a resident of Indiranagar, had left for work in the morning. While near ITPL Road, he suddenly pulled over next to a tree. Hours passed, but he remained inside the vehicle, raising suspicion among locals. A shopkeeper near the spot grew concerned when he noticed the car stationary for an extended period. Upon receiving no response from Santosh, bystanders broke the car's glass, only to discover him unresponsive. The HAL police were immediately alerted. —BMB

Police rescue woman trapped in lift

In a swift operation, police recently rescued a 50-year-old woman who was trapped in a lift near the skywalk at Nagarbhavi Bus Stand under Chandralayout Police Station limits .

A citizen called the emergency helpline Namma 112, alerting the authorities about the stranded woman. Hoysala 60 patrol staff, including ASI Ravindra and Head Constable Nagesh, rushed to the spot and assessed the situation. Despite alerting the civic body for technical assistance, no response was received. The cops, technically skilled, pulled up the iron wires atop the lift and freed the woman in 20 minutes. —BMB

SONU NIGAM REGALES B'LORE WITH MAYAVI, MERE DHOLNA ON-STAGE DEBUT AT GIG BY NR TALENT & EVENT MANAGEMENT



Bengaluru witnessed a night of pure musical magic as Padma Shri Sonu Nigam took the stage at Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield, delivering an unforgettable performance that had the audience on their feet from start to finish. Organised by NR Talent and Event Management, the concert blended some of Sonu's soul-stirring melodies with high-energy performances. With a footfall of 10,000, the energy was electric, and the audience couldn't get enough! The highlight of the evening was Sonu's first-ever live performance of 'Mayavi' and 'Mere Dholna,' a moment so emotional that he broke down on stage, moving the audience to tears as well.

From the moment he stepped on stage to the final note of his 2-hour-15-minute performance, Sonu kept the audience hooked with his powerhouse vocals, charismatic stage presence, and signature dance moves. Honouring the love and admiration he has received from Karnataka, Sonu treated the audience to Kannada classics like 'Anisuthide' and 'Ee Sanje Yakagide'. He also sang a mix of his evergreen hits, including 'Abhi Mujh Mein Kahin,' 'Suraj Hua Maddham,' 'Yeh Dil Deewana,' 'Kal Ho Na Ho,' and 'Bijuriya,' each meeting with thunderous applause.

PHOTO CREDIT : PARAMVEER SINGH

Namrata Gupta Khan, Sonu Nigam and Rabbani Mustafa Khan

Speaking about the concert, Sonu Nigam shared, "I am excited to be here in Bengaluru for this show, so beautifully organised by my family - Rabbani and Namrata. Wherever I perform in the world, the moment I hear even one person shout 'Kannada,' I make sure to sing a few lines... The love I have received from Bengaluru is beyond words, and I am truly grateful."

NR Talent and Event Management, helmed by Namrata Gupta Khan and Rabbani Mustafa Khan, brought their hallmark excellence to the concert, ensuring a flawless spectacle. With their signature precision, they delivered seamless stage production and impeccable organisation down to the last detail. From the lighting to the acoustics, every element was thoughtfully executed, creating an immersive sonic and visual experience. Stunning pyrotechnics further amplified the spectacle, making it a truly experiential concert.

Rabbani Mustafa Khan shared, "This concert was incredibly special to us. Seeing Bengaluru come alive to Sonu bhai's voice was an unforgettable moment. We can't wait to return with more incredible experiences." Added Namrata Gupta Khan, "We are thankful to the beautiful people of Bengaluru for their unparalleled energy, passion and love!"

As the event drew to a close, the audience refused to let go, cheering for encores and basking in the afterglow of a memorable evening...

BBMP starts taking stock of state of borewells in parks

Officials asked to ensure water supply is not hindered; directions given on dry leaf collection too

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has asked officials to submit a report on the status of borewells in parks across the city. The decision was taken keeping in mind that the greenery in parks might suffer if the borewells run dry during summer.

At a meeting at the BBMP central office on Monday, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath emphasised on the need to assess the functionality of borewells in BBMP-managed parks and identify those in disrepair. To address water shortages in parks with defunct borewells, Giri Nath directed officials to coordinate with the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and arrange for treated wastewater from sewage treatment plants to be transported via tankers for irrigating saplings and trees in these parks.

Ensuring water supply

"With summer approaching, adequate water supply is crucial for maintaining parks, lakes, and median plantations. Officials have been instructed to assess the exact water requirement and the number of tankers needed and make the necessary arrangements at the earliest," Giri Nath said.

He also drew attention to the large volumes of fallen leaves accumulating across the city as the dry season sets in. "Officials have been asked to identify designated collection points and take necessary steps to clear dried leaves regularly to maintain cleanliness. BBMP has also directed BSWML (Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited) to implement appropriate measures for waste disposal," he said.

Bengaluru has 1,280 parks under BBMP's jurisdiction, and as part of an eco-friendly initiative, 100 of these parks will soon be equipped with leaf composting units.

Officials are identifying designated collection points & taking measures to clear dried leaves regularly

BWSSB to maintain RO water plants

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has directed officials to issue necessary orders to transfer the responsibility of maintaining BBMP-managed RO (Reverse Osmosis) water plants to BWSSB. In a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, Shivakumar stated that while BWSSB is responsible for providing drinking water and sewage management in Bengaluru, BBMP is currently handling the maintenance of RO plants. With summer approaching, there is a risk of borewells drying up, making it necessary for BWSSB to supply water to these plants. Any lack of coordination between the two agencies in water distribution could cause inconvenience to citizens. To avoid such disruptions, he stressed that BWSSB should take over the maintenance of all RO plants currently under BBMP's jurisdiction. During a recent inspection of Bengaluru's water supply infrastructure, Shivakumar noticed that several RO plants were non-functional. He had instructed the BBMP Chief Commissioner to submit a report on the issue, highlighting the need for immediate intervention to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply to residents.

Water wastage

The BWSSB has intensified its efforts to curb water wastage. Over the past week, the board has identified 112 cases of unnecessary water usage and imposed fines totaling 5.60 lakh. On February 17, BWSSB issued an order prohibiting the misuse of potable water. As per Sections 33 and 34 of the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Act, the use of drinking water for vehicle and home washing, gardening, construction activities, recreational purposes, cinema halls, decorative installations in malls, and road construction/cleaning has been strictly banned. Despite this, violations were found, and strict action was taken against violators.

CMRS inspects driverless trains on yellow line

Metro officials assess safety and readiness of driverless trains

The Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) and his team conducted a statutory inspection on Monday of the driverless trains procured from CRRC on the Yellow Line between RV Road and Bommasandra. The inspection, led by CMRS (Southern Circle) AM Choudhary, is a mandatory step before seeking approval from the Railway Ministry for the new rolling stock. Once the Railway Board grants approval for the rolling stock and the signalling tests on the Yellow Line are completed, the CMRS will carry out a final inspection of the entire R-5 section. Following this, the necessary sanction will be obtained, paving the way for the line to be opened for operations. **-BMB**

New VC for RGUHS to be appointed soon

The search for a new Vice Chancellor for Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) is underway following the completion of Dr MK Ramesh's tenure on February 10. Until a successor is appointed, Dr Ramesh will continue as interim Vice Chancellor. Though he sought an extension, it appears unlikely that he will be reappointed.

Sources indicate that the government is keen on bringing in fresh leadership and is likely to choose a candidate from the shortlist recommended by the search committee. Authorities are particularly considering candidates from private institutions, a practice with precedent in Karnataka. Universities such as Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) have previously appointed leaders from private colleges.

RGUHS oversees 1,022 affiliated colleges, including 32 medical, 18 nursing, and two dental colleges under government administration. However, nearly 900 private institutions also fall under its jurisdiction, spanning medical, dental, ayurveda, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health sciences programs. Given the substantial revenue from examination and affiliation fees, the government sees merit in selecting a Vice Chancellor with private-sector experience.

"Faculty from private medical colleges often possess both academic and administrative expertise, making them strong contenders for the role," an official from the medical education department said. "With UGC regulations now allowing candidates from private institutions, the government is adopting a more inclusive approach. Since nearly 90% of RGUHS-affiliated colleges are private, opposition to such an appointment is expected to be minimal" an official from the medical education department said. **-BMB**

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Trash threat
ISRO Layout

A persistent plastic and waste dump near the playground on 9th Main, ISRO Layout, poses a serious health risk. Despite concerns, no action has been taken.

Unresolved complaint
Jayanagar East

BBMP Sahaya closed today's trash complaint at Jayanagar without action. Issue remains unresolved.

Illegal transport
Hoskote Road

Passenger autos illegally converted into goods carriers, transporting items openly and endangering road users—frequently seen on Whitefield-Hoskote Road. Will authorities act?

Worker dies as gate arch collapses

A 45-year-old construction worker lost his life, while another narrowly escaped, after an under-construction school gate arch collapsed on them near MG Road on Kanakapura Main Road on Monday afternoon.

The deceased has been identified as Manjo, a resident of Kunkapur, who hailed from Bihar. According to police reports, the incident occurred around 1 pm when the arch, still under construction, suddenly gave way. At the time, nine workers were present at the site.

Manjo, who was sitting near the arch resting and using his mobile phone, was caught under the debris and unable to escape. A passerby, along with police, attempted to rescue him, but he succumbed to his injuries before medical assistance could arrive. The other worker managed to escape.

CRIME FILES

Chased by strays, man falls into drain, dies

A 22-year-old construction worker lost his life after allegedly being chased by stray dogs and falling into a drain in the Gangamma Gudi police station limits.

The deceased, identified as Nagaraja, hailed from Sindhanur taluk in Raichur and was working as a labourer in Abbigeri. He resided in a temporary shed near the construction site. His body was discovered on Sunday around 9.30 am, approximately 150 to 220 metres from OMR Circle.

According to preliminary reports, Nagaraja was being chased by dogs when he lost control and fell into the drain. The stray dogs allegedly attacked and bit him. However, the exact cause of death, whether due to the fall or the dog bites, will be determined after the post-mortem examination. Police officials stated that CCTV footage from the area suggests Nagaraja was intoxicated at the time of the incident, as he appeared unsteady while walking.

Man stabbed to death over trivial argument

A 23-year-old man was stabbed to death following a heated argument in the Yelahanka New Town police station limits on Saturday night.

The deceased, identified as Subrahmani from Anantapur, was attacked around 9.30 pm near his residence. According to police reports, Subrahmani and his friend had gone to look for someone when they got into an argument with two individuals at the location. The dispute quickly escalated, leading the accused to stab Subrahmani multiple times in the stomach, and neck before fleeing the scene.

Critically injured, Subrahmani was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries early Sunday morning.

Police officials stated that both the victim and the accused were allegedly intoxicated at the time of the incident.

Following an investigation, the Yelahanka New Town police arrested Murli (25) and Ganesh (23), both drivers by profession.

Cop's arrest for sexual assault on rape survivor shocks city

'How many times do we have to protest such crimes? We have to shout to be heard — yet no one listens to us'

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A 17-year-old, who was cheated by her neighbour, who made a promise of marriage only to repeatedly assault her, faced further assault at the hands of those who were supposed to protect her. The minor had approached the police, and a constable identified as Arun from Bommanahalli police station, also allegedly raped her. The constable has since been arrested.

According to the complaint filed at Bommanahalli Police Station by the victim's father, his daughter was first approached by a man named Vicky, a resident of their building. Vicky allegedly promised to marry the girl and, under this false pretense, engaged in repeated physical contact and assault. The incidents occurred throughout May 2024.

Subsequently, the victim was allegedly targeted by Constable Arun. The complaint details how Arun, aware of the victim's situation through his professional connection to the police station, offered assistance. However, on December 22 and 30, 2024, he reportedly took the girl to a lodge in BTM. There, he allegedly incapacitated her with alcohol, raped her, and silenced her with threats of digital exposure, if she revealed the assault.

> **"The very people who should be ensuring justice are committing the same crimes, and there is no sign of zero tolerance**

Bengaluru City Commissioner B Dayananda confirmed that the accused has been arrested, and a complaint has been registered against the constable involved. He further urged the city's firm stance on women's safety, stating, "We maintain a zero-tolerance policy towards any misconduct that threatens the safety of women. Several initiatives have been implemented to enhance security, ensure swift action against offenders, and build a safer environment for women in the city."

However KS Vimala Janawadi, Mahila Sanghatane, expressed shock at these incidents that she termed outrageous. "The very people who should be ensuring justice are committing the same crimes, and there is no sign of zero tolerance. The victim is already a survivor, enduring immense emotional pain, and for a constable to assault her again reflects a deeply flawed mindset and attitude. If such cases are surfacing, what is the government, the women's commission, and even civil society doing?"

Continued nightmare

2025 began with the horrific rape and murder of a six-year-old at an under-construction building in Vinayaka Layout and now we come to this case. According to police data, in January alone, a staggering 65 rape cases were reported, painting a grim picture of women's safety. Among these, two were cases of gang rape, while the remaining 63 were incidents of sexual assault. This year, 457 molestation cases have been reported. Compared to 2023's data, there has been a 3% rise in rape cases and a 9% increase in molestation incidents in 2024.

A few days ago, a woman was gang-raped near a private college in Koramangala late Wednesday night. Police have arrested four hotel staff members for the crime. Sources allege she was forcibly taken into a private room around 12.30 am and assaulted. Afterwards, shopkeepers consuming alcohol allegedly stole her purse and phone.

"In POCSO and other sexual assault cases, the judiciary has a crucial role to play, but it is not taking these matters seriously enough. Protesting is our right, but how many times, for how many days, and for how many issues will we have to protest? In a democratic city like Bengaluru, we don't even have space to protest freely. We need police permission, we are confined to Freedom Park, and even then, we have to shout to be heard—yet no one listens or looks at us.

This is the reality. The protests, the cries, the suffering of women who endure such crimes are not being considered by the government. Cases like these must be taken with the utmost seriousness," Vimala added.

Man stabbed to death over Rs 500 in Hoskote

A 23-year-old man, Mohin, was stabbed to death after a dispute over money meant for purchasing marijuana in Kattigenahalli village of Hoskote taluk.

According to police officials, Mohin had given Roshan Rs 500 to buy ganja. However, instead of delivering the drugs, Roshan went home and switched off his mobile phone, ignoring Mohin's attempts to contact him.

When Mohin later confronted him at his house to retrieve either the money or the drugs, an argument broke out. In a fit of rage, Roshan attacked Mohin, fatally stabbing him.

The Tirumala Shettahalli police have registered a case, and the accused has been taken into custody.

Labourer killed in road accident

A 35-year-old labourer lost his life after being hit by a speeding bike while crossing the road near CMR College Bus Stand on Hennur-Bagalur Road, Chagalahatti, on Sunday. The victim, identified as Suraj Das, hailed from West Bengal. The accident occurred around 7 pm when Das was crossing the road, and a fast-moving bike collided with him. He sustained severe injuries and was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries before receiving treatment. The biker was also injured in the accident and is currently undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Chikkajala traffic police arrived at the scene, conducted an inspection, and have registered a case.

BBMP typist found dead in suspected suicide

A 34-year-old woman working as a typist at the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was found dead in her residence on 1st Main Road, Chamarajpet, on Sunday night.

The deceased, identified as Nandini, was married to Srikanth for nine years, and the couple had two children, a son and a daughter. According to police reports, Srikanth had stepped out of the house when Nandini allegedly died by suicide. Though Srikanth rushed her to a nearby hospital, doctors declared her dead on arrival.

Bad-quality insecticides, not shop onwers' fault

The Karnataka High Court has nullified legal proceedings against two retail shop owners under the Insecticides Act, following the seizure of substandard insecticides by the Agricultural Officer from their establishments.

Justice S Vishwajith Shetty, whilst allowing the petition by Devanand Patil and another, stated, "Petitioners being the owners of the shop/showroom, in which products of the Company was stocked/exhibited for sale, cannot be held vicariously liable and be penalised for misbranding of the product in respect of which they were not involved in the manufacturing process."

The Agricultural Officer filed charges under Sections 3(k), 13, 17 and 29 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, alleging that the insecticides displayed for sale were substandard. The petitioners contended they neither manufactured the seized items nor knew about their substandard quality. The prosecution maintained that the seizure from the petitioners' establishments and laboratory certification of substandard quality warranted charges against them.

The bench, citing Section 33, stated "Only responsible officers of the Company, who have a role in the conduct of business of the company can be arraigned as accused with the Company and not all employees of the Company can be arraigned as accused to face trial for the offences punishable under Section 29 of the Act." The court noted that Section 30(3) provides protection to non-manufacturers and non-importers of insecticides. BMB

Hesaraghatta grassland gets new official name

State defines boundaries of important ecosystem, officially designating it as conservation reserve

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Starting today, the Hesaraghatta grassland will officially be known as the Greater Hesaraghatta Grassland and Conservation Reserve.

In a notification issued on Monday, the Karnataka government defined the boundaries of the grassland, officially designating it as a conservation reserve. According to the notification, this measure aims to protect its ecological, faunal, floral, and geo-morphological significance. The declaration will also help in the preservation and development of the habitat, its wildlife, and the vital catchment area surrounding the grassland, which serves as an important water source for Bengaluru.

The notification emphasised that grasslands are just as important as forests, if not more so. They support biodiversity, store atmospheric carbon, and play a crucial role in mitigating global warming and climate change. The area provides shelter to a diverse range of plants, animals, birds, reptiles, and insects, but also has become a shelter for biomasses.

The grassland hosts migratory birds, raptors, and endangered species like the lesser florican

> **7 different species of snakes have been observed in grasslands. Protecting this habitat by designating it as conservation reserve is need of time** –Notification

"Hesaraghatta lake bed and the surrounding grasslands are a vital reservoir of biodiversity and a refuge for endangered wildlife species such as leopards, slender lorises, jackals, Indian foxes, smooth-coated otters, wild pigs, common mongooses, black-naped hares, Indian mole rats, and Indian field mice. Additionally, seven different species of snakes have been observed in the grasslands. Protecting this habitat by designating it as a conservation reserve is the need of the time," the notification stated.

The decision to declare the 5,000-acre green patch as a conservation reserve was taken by the Karnataka State Board of Wildlife (SBWL) on October 7, 2024, and was later approved by the state cabinet on January 30, 2025.

The landscape also serves as a crucial habitat for several migratory birds from Europe, Central Asia, and the Himalayas, including various raptors, the greater spotted eagle (Aquila clanga), and globally threatened species such as the lesser florican, which is classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Conservationists have long raised concerns about the pressures the grassland faces due to human activities. Over the past three decades, the Hesaraghatta Lake has undergone significant changes, while the grassland area has been affected by excessive tree planting, which has disrupted its unique habitat and biodiversity.

Minister orders talks on bus row

Reacting to incidents where KSRTC buses were targeted in Maharashtra, Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said on Monday that he has instructed the department secretary to speak to his counterpart regarding the issue.

Minister Reddy said, "In Chitradurga, a Maharashtra bus was painted black by Kannada activists following an incident in which a conductor in Belagavi was attacked for asking passengers to speak in Kannada. In retaliation, four to five of our buses were painted black in Maharashtra."

"Our department secretary has been directed to speak to his counterpart in Maharashtra. Thousands of people travel between Karnataka and Maharashtra daily, and incidents like these are causing hardship to the public. The police department will take appropriate action in the matter," Reddy stated.

Providing further details, Minister Reddy explained, "The incident initially involved a dispute between a conductor and two passengers. The passengers did not know Kannada, and our conductor did not know Marathi. The conductor questioned why one of the male passengers was travelling using a free ticket meant for women. There were 90 passengers on the bus at the time. The passenger who was questioned then made phone calls and gathered a crowd, after which they assaulted the conductor."

"A police complaint has been registered, and the accused have been sent to judicial custody. However, a day later, a POCSO case was filed against the conductor," the Minister added. –IANS

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Pligrims defy heat, elephants on Mahadeshwara trek

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Even in the scorching summer, thousands of barefoot devotees continue their pilgrimage to Mahadeshwara Betta. However, unlike previous years, crossing the Arkavathi River at Sangama has become effortless this time because there is barely any water. While the absence of water eliminates the challenge of wading through the river, pilgrims now face a different set of risks: the intense summer heat and the growing threat of elephant attacks.

Age-old tradition of pilgrimage

Every year, as part of the Mahashivaratri tradition, devotees walk from Yelagalli in Kanakapura, passing through Sangama before reaching Mahadeshwara Betta. With the rising number of pilgrims, local authorities have taken preventive measures to ensure their safety.

Three years ago, heavy rains caused the Arkavathi River to overflow, leading to tragic incidents where several devotees were swept away. While the water level is lower this year, authorities have implemented safety measures, including ropes tied across the river at two points to assist pilgrims. For the first time, ambulances, rescue boats, and fire safety vehicles have been deployed in the Sangama forest area. Buttermilk and panaka (a sweet beverage) are also being distributed in nearby villages, though such facilities remain scarce in the dense forested areas.

Massive influx of devotees expected

The pilgrimage officially began last Friday, with over 40,000 pilgrims crossing the river in a single day. Every year, more than one lakh devotees take this route as it significantly reduces travel distance compared to road options. Pilgrims begin their journey at the Muddamma Temple in Yelagalli, Kanakapura taluk, and walk approximately 30 km via Sangama to reach Talabetta, a key point near Mahadeshwara Betta. The alternative road route requires a 150 km journey, making the river crossing the preferred choice for many.

Devotion amid drought: Pilgrims cross near-dry Arkavathi on foot despite rising heat and wildlife risks

Warnings for pilgrims

Despite the low water levels, devotees must remain cautious. The river crossing spans 1 to 2 km, and certain areas have deep pits that pose a drowning risk. While the current is weaker than in previous years, some underwater currents persist. Authorities have urged pilgrims to exercise extreme caution.

Proposal for bridge abandoned

There were discussions about constructing a bridge over the Kaveri River to facilitate easier access to Mahadeshwara Betta. However, since the area falls within a wildlife sanctuary, the proposal was dropped.

Rising threat of Elephant attacks

The pilgrimage route passes through the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, where the elephant population has been steadily increasing. Villages along the forest periphery frequently report elephant incursions, and aggressive elephant activity has been observed deeper within the sanctuary. As a precaution, officials advise pilgrims to walk in groups. To ensure safety, ropes have been tied at two strategic locations to assist in river crossings, and police personnel from the Channapatna division have been deployed in the Sangama forest area. Additionally, ambulances and fire safety vehicles have been stationed nearby, while experienced swimmers are positioned at key points to assist in case of emergencies.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain. The presence of wild animals, particularly elephants, poses a significant threat. The intense heat makes the journey even more exhausting, and access to drinking water and food remains a major concern, especially in the dense forested stretches.

This route continues to be the preferred choice for devotees due to its deep-rooted tradition.

HEALTH TIP: Aim to consume at least eight glasses of water daily, and increase intake during hot weather

The potassium content of sugarcane juice improves digestive health by balancing the stomach's pH levels

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PARENTAL ADVISORY

What no one tells you about parenting (but you wish they did!)

Parenting books, mothers and their mothers, the insta-star influencers and even random strangers you meet in your everyday life, when they see you struggle with your child will shower you with advice on how to raise your little human. "Enjoy every moment," they say. "It goes by so fast!" they warn. But let's be real—there's a lot about parenting that no one tells you, and sometimes, you learn it the hard way. As a two-time mommy, here are some of the biggest surprises no one warned me about.

Sleep Will Never Be The Same Again

As a new mom, everyone warns about sleepless nights, but what they don't tell you is that this is not a temporary phase. Even when your child starts sleeping through the night, you will not. You'll wake up at every little sound, check if they're breathing, and somehow develop a superpower where you can sense them roll over in their sleep. And when you think you're past the toddler wakeups, then welcome to the world of "Mommy, I had a bad dream" at 2 am.

A Clean House? A Distant Dream

You will tidy up, wipe things down, and put everything back in its place—only to have a pile of toys, food crumbs, and mess which will appear exactly five minutes after you invested hours of your time in mastering cleaning skills.

The Endless Guilt

Mom guilt, dad guilt, working parent guilt, stay-at-home parent guilt—it doesn't matter what kind of parent you are; the guilt finds you. You'll feel bad for being away at work, for letting them watch too much TV, for losing your patience, for not making organic, homemade meals every day. The truth? You're doing just fine.

Say Goodbye To Hot Meals

Your plate is their plate. It doesn't matter if they have the same meal in front of them, but yours just tastes better. They will steal your food, ask for bites, and when you finally get to take a bite, get ready to encounter "Can I have some water?" or "I need to go potty."

Nothing Belongs To You Anymore

Your bed? Theirs. Your phone? Theirs. Your snacks? Definitely theirs. Your alone time? A thing of the past. Once you become a parent, personal space is a distant memory, and you will never again go to the bathroom without an audience.

Their Love Language Is Loud

One moment, they are hugging you and telling you that you're the best parent in the universe. The next, they are dramatically declaring that they hate you because you won't let them have another cookie or an extended screen time. Their emotions are big, unpredictable, and always at full volume.

You Will Become "That" Parent

You swore you'd never be the parent who brags about their kid, takes a million photos of them doing the most basic things, or getting hyper seeing them doing a tiny act in school performances. And yet, here you are—tearing up because they wrote their name for the first time and showing off their stick-figure drawings like they're museum-worthy.

There Is No Easy Phase

People say the newborn phase is the easiest, but between breastfeeding struggles, and sleepless nights, it doesn't feel easy at all. Toddlerhood is like stepping on a land mine – unpredictable. Preschoolers, tweens, and teenagers each come with their own set of challenges, making you realize that no phase ever truly feels like a break. Parenting is an ongoing adventure, where just as you master one stage, a new one begins.

Silence Is Never Golden

Before kids, silence meant peace. After kids, silence means trouble. If your child is quiet for too long, you should probably check what they're up to because chances are, they're doing something massive and messy.

No Two Parenting Styles Are the Same

What works for one child won't necessarily work for another. No two parents will have the exact same approach, and no one solution fits all kids. Take inspiration from your friends, siblings or neighbours, but always adapt it to your child's personality and your family's needs. You are the best parent for your child, no matter how different your approach may be.

Kids Grow Up Fast, But We Don't

One moment, they're tiny and dependent on you. The next, they're forming their own opinions, and becoming their own person. And yet, in your eyes, they'll always be that small child who needed you for everything. While they grow up, you still feel like time hasn't moved for you.

But here's the best part...

For all the chaos, exhaustion, and moments that make you want to pull your hair out, parenting is pure magic. Those sleepy cuddles, the unconditional love, laughing at even a small gimmick, and the way they look at you like you're their entire world—it makes every sleepless night, every mess, and every tantrum completely worth it.

Would you trade it for a full night's sleep, hot cup of coffee in silence or a peaceful bathroom break? Maybe. But ask them if they will change a thing? Not for the world.

—Kayal Arivalan, Femina

All you need to know about...

Exercise after cancer

Boosts survival rates
Higher levels of physical activity may not only prevent the risk of cancers but also boost survival rates in people who have undergone treatment.
Researchers from the Louisiana State University in the US focussed on long-term survival rates in colon cancer survivors. Individuals with colon cancer face higher rates of premature mortality than people in the general population.

The study
To assess whether exercise might reduce this disparity, the team analysed data from two posttreatment trials in patients with stage 3 colon cancer. A total of 2,875 patients self-reported physical activity after cancer surgery and chemotherapy.
For all participants, physical activity was based on metabolic equivalent (MET) hours per week. (Health guidelines recommend 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week, translating to approximately 8 MET hours/week.)

The findings
The findings, published in the peer-reviewed journal CANCER, showed that patients who were alive at three years after cancer treatment, and those with less than 3 MET-hours/week had subsequent 3-year overall survival rates. It was 17.1 per cent lower than the matched general population.
On the other hand, people with more than 18 MET-hours/week had only 3.5 lower subsequent 3-year overall survival rates than the matched general population. Similarly in the second trial, patients who were alive at three years, those with less than 3 and more than 18 MET-hours/week had subsequent 3-year overall survival rates that were 10.8 per cent and 4.4 per cent lower than the matched general population, respectively.

The results indicate that
"higher levels of physical activity may lessen and even eliminate survival disparities," the researchers said. The study showed that cancer survivors who were tumour-free by year three and regularly exercised achieved even better subsequent survival rates. **—IANS**

Knock, knock

Elyse Perry celebrates her half-century in the ninth match of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Monday. It was her unbeaten 90 and Danielle Wyatt-Hodge's 57 that helped Royal Challengers Bengaluru post 180/6 in 20 overs against UP Warriorz

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Plan to upgrade 165 junctions with AI signals moving slowly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Human intervention

As of February 2025, Bengaluru manages traffic across approximately 450 signalised junctions, an increase from 400 in 2022. Among these, 103 junctions are equipped with AI-powered Adaptive Traffic Control Systems (ATCS), with plans to expand this number to 165 by March 2025. These AI-driven systems aim to enhance traffic flow and reduce congestion by adjusting signal timings based on real-time traffic conditions.

The junction where the incident took place is one of the busiest in the city and currently lacks AI-powered signals. As a result, traffic management is being handled manually by traffic police.

"This junction is yet to be equipped with an AI-powered signal and is currently being managed manually. However, in the coming years, all junctions are expected to transition to AI-driven traffic signals," a senior traffic official said.

Currently, several traffic signals in Bengaluru continue to be manually operated due to the absence of AI-powered systems.

While the traffic police aim to minimise manual intervention, certain situations still necessitate their presence at key junctions. According to officials, a phased plan is underway to integrate AI technology across the city's traffic network. Over the next three to four years, more than 500 junctions are expected to be upgraded with AI-driven signals, enhancing efficiency and reducing the need for manual regulation.

Mysore Chalo: HC permits protest

The Karnataka High Court granted permission on Monday to the Rashtriya Suraksha Janandolan Samithi, Mysore, to conduct a peaceful protest rally, 'Mysore Chalo' within the football ground to address the recent stone-pelting incident near Udayagiri Police Station.

The court instructed the Mysore Police Commissioner to ease Section 144 CrPC restrictions in the designated area for the protest. The demonstration was scheduled for approximately one hour around 3 pm on the same day. Justice R Devdas, whilst concluding the case, stated, "The writ petition is disposed of directing the Police Commissioner to permit the petitioners to hold a peaceful rally only within the premises of football grounds at Mysore. For that purpose, the Commissioner of Police may also pass necessary orders relaxing the Section 144 CrPC orders, only in the area where the protest is permitted to be held."

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I Shwetha W/O, Nagesh K R R/o Shwetha W/o Nagesh K R Kempanahalli,santhemavthur Post,kasaba Hobli,kunigal Taluk ,tumkur Dust have changed my name to Shwetha H R.

I, Shivaraj Basangowda S/o Basangowda R/a No.10, Vinayaka Layout, 1st Main, Medarahalli, Chikkabanavara Post, Bengaluru- 560090. Have changed my name from Shivaraj to SHIVARAJ BASANGOWDA. Vide Afft Date: 21.01.2025. Sworn Before Notary: A.Narayanaswamy.

I, PRAKASHA R, S/O RAMAIAH V R/O No.224, Mudugere, Gowribidanuru taluk, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka- 561210 changed my daughter name POORVISHREE P to KRSHVI NISHIKHA vide Affidavit date 22.02.2025 sworn before notary H M ADI NARAYANA GOWDA

I, Anjan Kumar Mohanty alias Anjan Mohanty S/O Binod Bihari Mohanty R/O B – 233, Shobha Zircon Shobha Ultima, Near Jakkur Plantation Yelahanka, Bangalore North, Jakkur, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560064, have changed my name Anjan Kumar Mohanty.

I Sudha Balegeda Munirajappa R/o Flat-116, Navanaami Lavender, Sampigehalli, Yelahanka,Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to Sudha Balikkai Shashishekar for all purposes.

I, S.V.ASHRIT, R/a#F3, NELE 1st Floor, SLV Pride Apts, Saraswathinagar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-40. I, have Changed my name to SHYAMSUNDER VIJAYACHAR ASHRIT, Vide affidavit, dated 22/02/2025 Sworn before Notary: Deepa. M Bangalore

I, NASEER NAWAZ s/o Ameer Jan R/a No #13, 9th Cross, Arpath Nagara, Hale Goddahalli, Bangalore-560026. I have changed my name to NASEER NAWAZ A J. Vide Affidavit dated on 22/02/2025. Sworn before Notary Leela Bangalore.

I, Akshay Sangeeth Ningeleri R/O B3 3153, Sobha Althea, Harohalli, yelahanka, Blr-560064 changed my name from Akshay Sangeeth to Akshay Sangeeth Ningeleri for all future purposes.

I, Abhilash S S/O P Srinivas Reddy R/O 17, R R Layout, Sri Srinivasa Saligrama Temple, Ramohalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560074,have changed my name to Abhilash Reddy

I, Prashant Panduranga Benke S/O Pandurang No 302 Kvr Saikruthi, 4th cross road, Krishna Layout Hulimavu, Bengaluru, 560076, have changed my name to Prashant Pandurang Benke.

I, Monica Shah D/o Naresh V Shah R/o 74/1, 52 cross, 4 block Rajajinagar Bangalore-560010 have changed my name to Monica N Shah for all purposes

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It's not that simple

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mentioning suicide methods and its site in detail. Reports also focused on single factor as explanations for suicide.

"The current study found that the majority of the reports did not adhere to the guidelines provided by the WHO, even after the Press Council of India issued similar guidelines, and this goes in tandem with the results of the studies previously conducted in India. The newspaper reports have not been successful in bringing out this important aspect, the significant connection between suicide and mental illness and also substance use," noted the study conducted on newspaper articles between October 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019, reporting on suicide.

The 19 newspapers were selected based on the Indian Readership Survey (2019). These included six English newspapers, five Kannada, two Malayalam, two Hindi, two Tamil, and two Telugu newspapers.

Researchers from the Departments of Psychiatric Social Work and Psychiatry at NIMHANS, the Department of Psychology in Christ (Deemed to be University), and the Department of Communication at St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru, say that responsibly reporting suicide-related instances can significantly help in reducing the subsequent rates of completed suicides, suicidal attempts, and suicidal ideations.

The study shows that the style of suicide reporting by print media needs to be improved.

"Although there have been collaborative efforts regarding responsible suicide reporting by mental health and media professionals, they are sparse and inconsistent.

There are also systemic issues that contribute to insensitive media reporting such as the need to increase Television Rating Point (TRP) ratings to ensure public views, which need to be taken into consideration while planning training programs to enhance suicide-related knowledge of media professionals," noted the study.

WHO's guidelines on reporting suicides

- Don't use sensational language in headlines.
- Don't describe the method used.
- Don't name or provide details about the site/location.
- Don't report the details of suicide notes.
- Don't oversimplify the reason for suicide or reduce it to a single factor.
- Don't use photographs, video footage, audio recordings, or digital or social media links.
- Don't use language/content that sensationalises, romanticises, or normalises suicide, or that presents it as a viable solution to problems.
- Position suicide-related content as the top story and don't unduly repeat such stories.

'Embrace empathy'
Jane Fonda urged actors to embrace empathy amid the current political climate in her acceptance speech at the Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards where she was given a Lifetime Achievement honour

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PRECIOUS TROUSSEAU

Bollywood actresses whose wedding outfits came with jaw-dropping price tags

Every girl dreams of a grand wedding, and for many, looking like a princess on their big day is a childhood fantasy. What better way to get inspired than by the Bollywood divas who have graced the screen in their stunning bridal avatars? However, these actresses didn't just shine on-screen—they spent hefty amounts for their picture-perfect wedding outfits in real life too. According to a report by Bollywoodlife, here are some of the most expensive bridal outfits worn by Bollywood actresses, each with an eye-popping price tag.

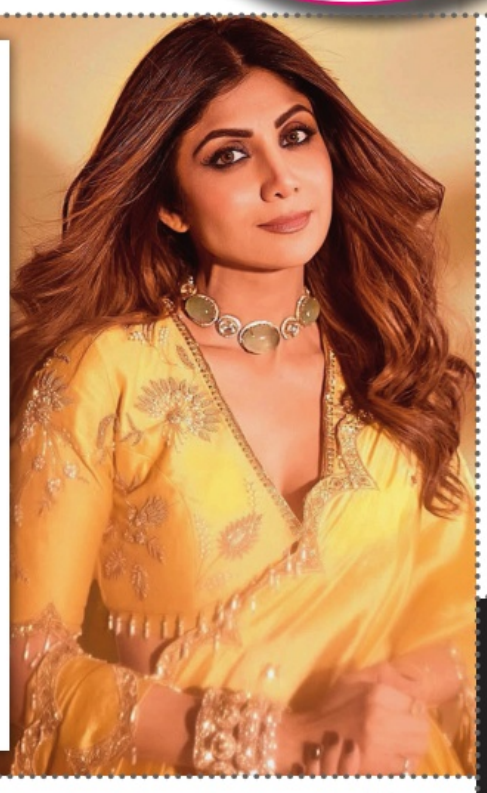
— TOI Lifestyle Desk

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan
Rs. 75 Lakh

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, often hailed as one of the most beautiful women in the world, tops the list with her breathtaking wedding ensemble. Designed by the renowned Neeta Lulla, Aishwarya wore a traditional Kanjeevaram saree in yellow and gold. But this wasn't just any saree—it was studded with Swarovski crystals and intricate gold threadwork. To complete her look, she wore 22-karat gold jewelry, including an emerald and gold armband, adding further opulence to her bridal appearance. The total cost of this stunning outfit was a whopping Rs. 75 lakh.

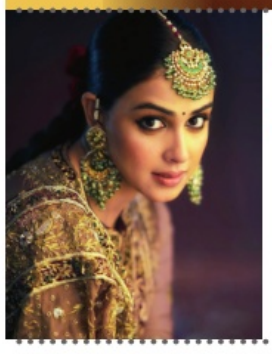
Shilpa Shetty Kundra
Rs. 50 Lakh

Shilpa Shetty Kundra's bridal look was nothing short of a dazzling spectacle. Designed by the celebrated Tarun Tahiliani, Shilpa wore a red saree adorned with around 8,000 Swarovski crystals, adding the perfect amount of sparkle. She paired it with exquisite kundan jewellery set with uncut diamonds and emeralds. This unforgettable ensemble cost Shilpa a massive Rs. 50 lakh, but her stunning bridal look is etched in everyone's memory, even years after her wedding.



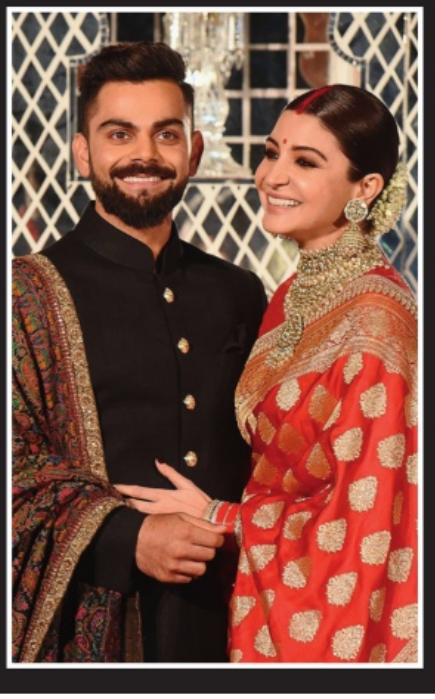
Kareena Kapoor Khan
Rs. 50 Lakh

When you marry a Nawab, you have to look the part! Kareena Kapoor Khan's wedding outfit was a nod to both tradition and royal elegance. For her reception, she wore a regal burgundy lehenga designed by Manish Malhotra, with a contrasting maroon dupatta. For this sophisticated look, the actress shelled out Rs. 50 lakh. She accessorized the outfit with royal gold and kundan jewelry, completing her graceful Begum look on her special day.



Genelia D'Souza Deshmukh. 17 Lakh

Genelia D'Souza Deshmukh had the unique experience of having two weddings, combining both Christian and Maharashtrian traditions. For her Maharashtrian wedding, the actress wore a traditional saree designed by Neeta Lulla, featuring a border of embellished gold kundan work. The saree cost Rs. 17 lakhs, but it was a beautiful reflection of her multicultural wedding experience.



Anushka Sharma Kohli Rs. 30 Lakh

Anushka Sharma's wedding look was a perfect blend of simplicity and elegance. The actress married Indian cricketer Virat Kohli in a private ceremony in Italy, and for the occasion, she wore a pale pink lehenga designed by Sabyasachi. The outfit was complemented by a traditional choker set from the designer's collection. Anushka's bridal look, which left everyone in awe, came at a cost of Rs. 30 lakhs—a price worth every penny for such a timeless and graceful appearance.

These Bollywood brides certainly spared no expense in their quest for perfection on their special day, with their wedding outfits serving as the ultimate testament to their style and grandeur. Whether it's the Swarovski-studded saree or the regal lehenga, these bridal ensembles were indeed an epitome of luxury and elegance, proving that for these Bollywood divas, the price tag was no object when it came to their once-in-a-lifetime wedding day.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

All praise

Real Star Upendra showered Abhimanyu Kashinath with praise for his sterling performance in the upcoming movie Suri Loves Sandhya. Upendra was the chief guest at the trailer launch of the movie held at MMB Legacy. The movie is scheduled for release on March 6.

"I am speaking from the heart. I am proud to associate with the team of this movie. I am speaking about its quality because I have watched it. If Abhimanyu's father Kashinath was alive, he would have felt very happy watching this movie. Its 20-minute-long climax is excellent. It has the potential to melt the hearts of the audiences. Both the hero and heroine have acted well. This movie should be released in all languages," Upendra said. Thanking Upendra for gracing the event, Abhimanyu said Upendra has been encouraging him since his childhood. "I am grateful to Upendra for unveiling the movie's trailer," he said.

One more thriller

Vijay Raghavendra-starrer Case of Kondana, released in 2024, was considered a suspense thriller. Now, his fans can watch one more suspense thriller – FIR 6 to 6 – scheduled to arrive in theaters on February 28. The movie is directed by KV Ramanaraj while Bhagya Ramesh has bankrolled it.

FIR 6 to 6 is Ramanaraj's maiden movie. He directed a Telugu movie with JD Chakravarthy in the lead but it is yet to be released. "We are making arrangements for the release of FIR 6 to 6 on Friday. It is about the incidents that take place at night. The movie revolves around a youth who gets into trouble and how he gets out of it. The shooting of the movie was held for 35 nights," the director said.

Stunt master Thriller Manju said he was very happy to be part of the team. "I composed action for two scenes. These scenes were picturised at night. I appreciate Vijay Raghavendra for his commitment and dedication. Yash Shetty has played an important role in the movie," said Thriller Manju.

Appreciating the entire team for their commitment and hard work, Vijay Raghavendra said Yash Shetty has acted well.

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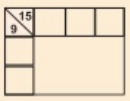
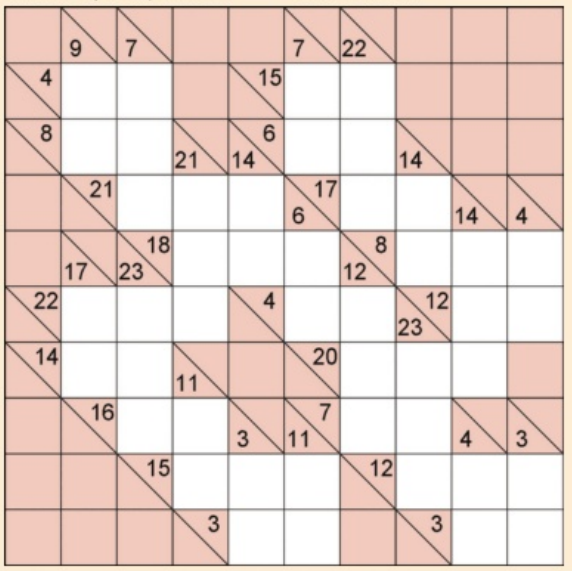
Kakuro

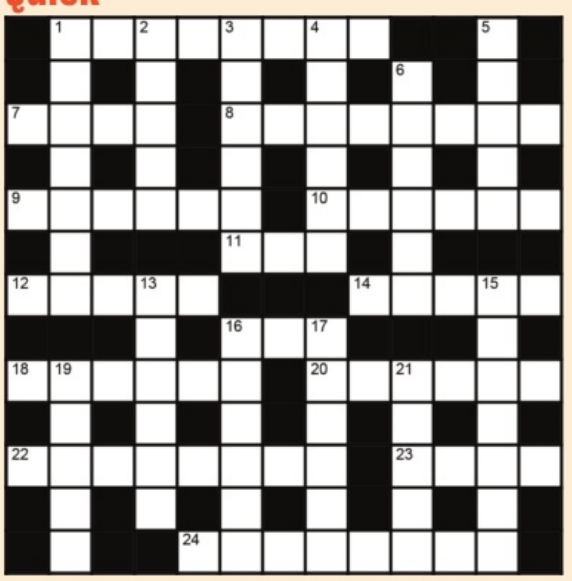
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Science of reality (8)
7 Himalayan legend (4)
8 Indian mountain range (8)
9 Uncivilized or primitive; fierce (6)
10 Followed a food regime (6)
11 Root mean square, in short (3)
12 A small stream (5)
14 A musical instrument (5)
16 Cropped hairstyle (3)
18 Whenever one wishes ? (2,4)
20 Recline lazily (6)
22 Aardvark or pangolin (3-5)
23 Part of the eye (4)
24 Is he link anagram for European city? (8)

DOWN

1 Alfresco (4-3)
2 Subarctic forest (5)
3 Thinner (6)
4 Salivary, endocrine, pituitary, et al.? (6)
5 Worth (5)
6 All-rounder Ravindra ____ (6)
13 Thought about and gave one's views (6)
15 Theatre on Varthur Road (7)
16 Joyful and happy as a lark (6)
17 ___ out : utters thoughtlessly or tactlessly? (6)
19 Armoured combat vehicles (5)
21 Joint or bond (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS N

LRUCU AM FP YCAUFVMRAH, FP EPKU, EABU LRZL PY LRU HZCUFL YPC LRU WRAEV.

Linemaro

I thought you looked like an angel; glad to know you are one

Mindchow

I'm bored is a useless thing to say. You live in a vast world you have seen zero per cent of. And even your mind is endless

Joke of the day

Teacher: Name a bird with wings that doesn't fly. Student: A dead bird, sir.

Loop

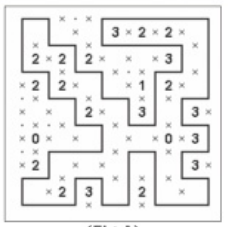
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

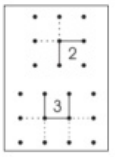
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

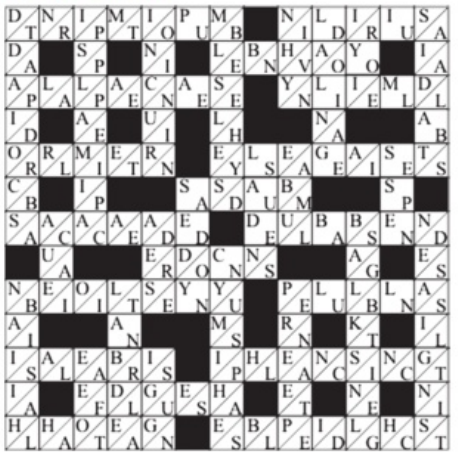


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

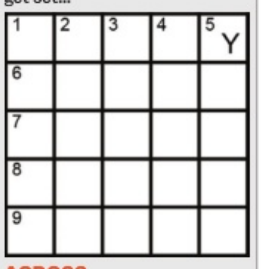
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

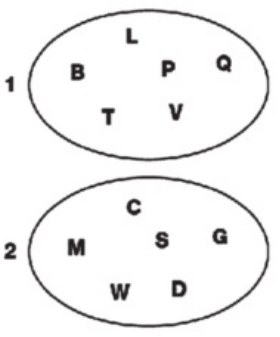
1 Sy sis; 6 A tale; 7 Baits; 8 Maine; 9 N Gays

DOWN

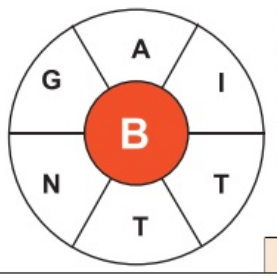
1 At say; 2 Lamia; 3 Basin; 4 Tings; 5 Essey

Mensapuzzle

Which letter is the odd one out in each oval?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

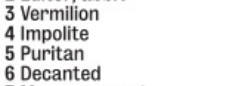
SudokuChallenge

8	5						2	7
9			7		2			6
		4		1		5		
1	2						8	9
		5				2		
4	9						6	5
		9		4		7		
7			5		6			2
3	8						5	4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 10

3 6 7 8

Medium = 36

2 2 4 9

Hard = 10

4 7 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

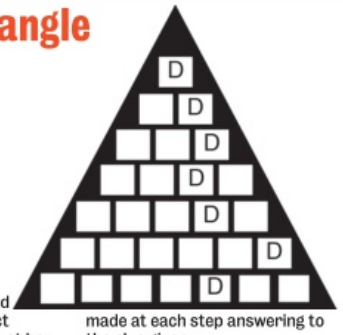
Differences: 1. Bag is smaller. 2. Finger is moved. 3. Mouth is different. 4. Tree is moved. 5. Wheel is moved. 6. Cap is different.

Riddler

What are the next three numbers in this series?
4, 6, 12, 18, 30, 42, 60, 72, 102, 108, ???, ???, ???, ...

Alpha triangle

1 Vitamin type
2 Editor, abbr.
3 Vermilion
4 Impolite
5 Puritan
6 Decanted
7 More arrogant



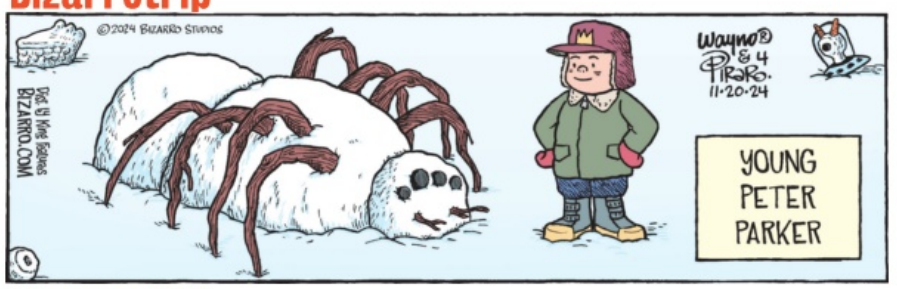
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WE'RE GOING TO NEW ORLEANS TO VISIT MY MOM!
A FEW YEARS AGO
OH, YAY! I LOVE GRANDMA VALENTINA. SHE HAS THE BEST HOUSE.
AND THE BEST STORIES!
AND THE BEST CANDY!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

IN A SMALL TOWN LIKE CENTERVILLE...
EVERYONE IN TOWN ALREADY KNOWS WHAT EVERYONE ELSE IN TOWN IS DOING.
THE JOB OF THE NEWSPAPER IS TO LET THEM KNOW IF ANYONE GETS CAUGHT!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
11-20

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
A busy workday may leave you mentally exhausted, potentially affecting your daily routine. However, you could establish valuable overseas connections. Be cautious with investments. Those in jobs may receive a promotion.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Situations are now under control, and destiny is in your favour regarding past investments, which may bring gains. Your hard work may be rewarded, and previously stalled projects could restart. A peaceful religious journey is likely, and you may also donate to charity or a religious place.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
The Moon's unfavorable position may cause health issues. Business or past investments may face losses, so it's advised to avoid further investments at this time. Steer clear of controversies, as they could negatively impact you.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A productive day at work, with opportunities for promotions and additional responsibilities. Disputes with business partners may be resolved. You may consider investing in assets, and your children's health is likely to improve. Investments for their future could be on your mind.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Blessings from the Moon bring love and harmony into your personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. Your professional life is also looking promising, with support from colleagues and friends. Investing in gems and jewelry may bring future gains. Pay attention to the health of elderly family members.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Auspicious planetary alignments will bring happiness and boost your reputation. You may feel energized and focused, leading to intellectual growth. Engaging in studies or acquiring new knowledge will be beneficial today.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
The day may start on a dull note, but by evening, negativity will be under control. New connections at work could help you revamp business strategies. However, read all documents carefully before signing anything.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
With divine blessings, your indecisiveness may be under control. Your child's health will improve, and colleagues will be supportive, leading to success in your projects. Incentives or bonuses may be on the way. Those in the dairy, water, grains, art, or cultural industries will see good progress.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may consider relocating or changing jobs, but it's advised to think carefully before making such decisions. While inner peace prevails, concerns about your child's health may cause worry. Avoid speculative investments. Lovebirds should remain patient before making marriage-related decisions.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Your patience will be strong today, and meditation could enhance your concentration, helping you complete projects faster. Subordinates will be cooperative, allowing you to meet deadlines. Work-related short trips are likely, and an influential person may help expand your network.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A day filled with social gatherings and family events. Your politeness will enhance your reputation. Spending on artifacts or household items may improve your social status. Good news from a relative could brighten your day.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Family reunions will keep you occupied, allowing you to reconnect with important contacts that may benefit you in the future. Those in glamour, arts, fashion, media, or film industries may embark on new ventures. Students will perform well academically, and lovebirds will enjoy their time together.

KIDZONE

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Sanja Y Velanganni, 13 Years, Bangalore

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
3+{5−[14+(8)]+8} =
3+{5−[−22]+8} = 3+{−17+8}
= 3+{−9} =−6

RIDDLER
Each number is surrounded by a prime number. 4 – 3 and 5 are prime 6 – 5 and 7 are prime etc. The next three numbers after 108 that have primes before and after them are: 138, 150 and 180.

BULL'S EYE
bait, bang, bating, BATTING

FAST FIVE

S	I	S	S	Y
A	L	A	T	E
T	A	B	I	S
A	M	I	N	E
Y	A	N	G	S

STRIKE OUT

T	R	I	T	I	U	M	I	D	R	I	S			
A	S		N		E	N	V	O	Y		A			
P	A	L	A	C	E	S		Y	I	E	L	D		
A		A		U		H			N		A			
C	O	R	M	E	R		E	L	E	G	I	S	T	
	C		I		A	D	A	M			S			
N	E	O	T	E	N	Y		P	U	L	L	S		
S	L	A	B	S		P	L	A	C	I	N	G		
A		A		M		R		K		I				
F	L	U	S	H		T		N		N				
L	A	T	E	N		S	L	E	I	G	H	S		

QUICK

S		H	E	L	S	I	N	K	I					
K		D		H		T		O	T					
A	N	T	E	A	T	E	R		I	R	I	S		
A		N		I		U		N		R				
A	T	W	I	L	L		L	O	U	N	G	E		
P		B	O	S					A					
B	R	O	O	K		B	A	N	J	O				
I						R	M	S		J				
S	A	V	A	G	E		D	I	E	T	E	D		
N		G		N		D		U						
P	A		E		L		J		A					
Y	E	T	I		A	R	A	V	A	L	L	I		
O	N	T	O	L	O	G	Y		V					

MENSA PUZZLE
1:Q, 2:D. The first oval contains letters with even numerical values, and the second oval contains letters with odd numerical values.

QUOTE UNCODE
There is no friendship, no love, like that of the parent for the child.

SUDOKU

3	8	2	9	7	1	6	5	4
7	4	1	5	8	6	9	3	2
5	6	9	2	4	3	7	1	8
4	9	8	1	2	7	3	6	5
6	3	5	8	9	4	2	7	1
1	2	7	3	6	5	4	8	9
2	7	4	6	1	8	5	9	3
9	1	3	7	5	2	8	4	6
8	5	6	4	3	9	1	2	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Ed, Red, Rude, Prude, Poured, Prouder.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 3 + 6 − 7 = 10
Medium
4 x 9 + 2 − 2 = 36
Hard
4 − 9 + 7 x 5 = 10

LOOP

KAKURO

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